

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. - our 45th ARRL affiliated year

May 1993

Next HCRA Meeting

The next Hampden County Radio Association meeting will take place on May 7, 1993 and will feature Ed Hare, KA1CV. Ed, who is a representative from the ARRL, will speak about antennas and feedlines. See the description under Future Meetings elsewhere in this issue. Don't Forget about the HCRA's 5 minute "open forum" before the meeting. Discuss your feelings about the HCRA. Doors open at 7:30 and the meeting will promptly start at 8:00 P.M. Hope to see you there!

Feeding Hills Congregatgional
Church
Route 57 & 187
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts

The next board meeting will take place at Larry Lemoine, N1EPE's QTH. It will take place at 7:30 P.M. on May 13, 1993. Feel free to ask for directions, anyone is welcome!!

Club Officers



Board of Directors

Expiring 1993

WA1YCA
KA1TBS
KA1QFE
N1GVV

Tryon Cote
Fred Gore
Bob Gutowski
Adam Olson

Expiring 1994

KA1WER
NR1L
W1ZGP
K1MVR

Paul Geng
Kevin Hilinski
Bob Leaver
Dave Olson

Officers

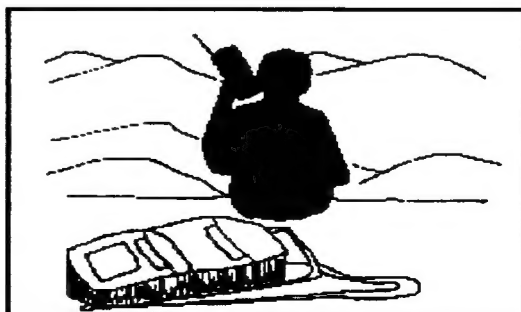
President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Larry Lemoine
Fred Stefanik
Greg Stoddard
Jim Sebolt

N1EPE
N1DPM
N1AEH
N1DUY

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HCRA Wins the January VHF Contest!!

President's Message

Many thanks to our speaker last month. Mike Gruber, WA1SVF. It's always interesting to hear how the ARRL works. Also, it was nice to see such a great turnout at dinner with the speaker. Nine club members attended and I do appreciate the effort, thanks to all.

We are all set for the May 7 meeting. Ed Hare, KA1CV, will be covering feedlines, SWR and other related topics. As co-editor of the ARRL publication "Radio Frequency Interference: How To Find It And Fix It", I'm sure Ed will be prepared to discuss any RFI and EMI problems also, so let's come prepared!

Field Day- At the April meeting we circulated a sign up sheet for club members to indicate whether they'd be interested in attending or helping this year. Fourteen members signed up. We are planning to have our first serious meeting concerning this event. All members willing to participate in any way are being asked to attend a brief meeting prior to the May 7 meeting. Please be there promptly at 7:30 PM. Our Field Day efforts this year will be a direct result of this meeting, so if you want to help in any way please attend. See you there!

Election of Officers- As Kevin, NR1L, mentioned in last month's issue. If you are interested in participating on the Board it's time to let the Board of Directors know. There has been some interest in a couple of the positions that's the good news. The bad news is we haven't received any interest in the President's or Vice President's positions. If interested please give me a call at 782-9578 if you'd like to confidentially discuss either position. Or simply fill out an application form and bring it to the next meeting or mail it in.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 13 at my QTH, everyone is welcome to attend.

73, Larry N1EPE

HCRA Flea Market Door Prize Winners:

Dual band mag mount antenna donated by Lentini Communication of Newington: WA1ZUH

2m gain antenna donated by S&L Amateur Specialities: K1LEC

1 year subscriptions to CQ: N1KER & N1INB

1 year subscriptions to World Radio: N1GBP, N1NSJ, xyl of W1DL

ARRL Handbook: K1MAL

ARRL Antenna book: Dan Profant

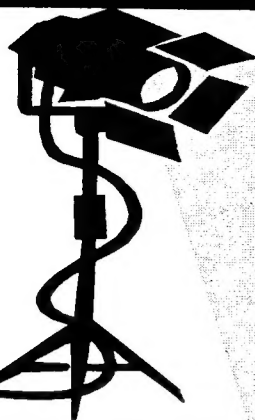
1 year subscription to Nuts and Volts: KF5LI

\$4.00 discount on QSLs from Shell Printing: xyl of N1KLR, WA1HRE, K1IAX,
Fran Jansen, Leonard Francolini, Mike - son of WB1ESR, W1HGJ

The Grand Prize for the raffle was a Yaesu FT530 dual band NT, and the winning ticket was drawn by (recent successful novice candidate) Dan McKay of Southwick, and was awarded to John LeMoine, KC1TV, of Holyoke, MA.

Thanks to everyone who attended the flea market, it was an exciting time for all! This was the most successful flea market the HCRA has ever had, and will help keep our club in the black. Special thanks go out to Paul Geng, KA1WER, and Bob Leaver, W1ZGP who made this year's event possible. Paul and Bob also wish to thank all others that helped.

Zero Beat is a monthly publication by the Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. Any article may be reprinted as long as credit is given to the publication and its author(s). This issue would not be possible without the help of your board of directors, and Scott Cohen, KA1QAS. Special thanks also go out to Jerry Griffin, WA1PGT, for use of his computer equipment. Thanks, editor (NR1L).



SPOTLIGHT ON THE CROWD

A Focus on a member
of the HCRA

IN THIS ISSUE:

Bob Stephens W1MM

1. Please introduce yourself

"Hello, my name is Robert M. Stephens, W1MM. I am 89 years old and was born on January 29, 1904. I reside at 20 Lindor Hts in Holyoke MA 01040. I retired from General Electric Company in Holyoke after 40 years of service as an engineer and manager of manufacturing. I graduated from the University of Nebraska, with a BS in Electrical Engineering in 1927. In college I was also active in sports. I was the starting quarterback for the football team from 1925-1926. I was also captain of the track team."

2. How did you get started in ham radio?

"I got started in ham radio when my friend and I observed my friend's older brother using a spark transmitter and a crystal detector receiver communicating with people around town. This intrigued my friend and I greatly. I quickly learned more and more and developed the ham radio bug. I attempted to copy build small versions of this station from *Boy's Life* magazine, but we had no success. However, at this time I did learn the Morse Code. During High School, the school had an operating license and my ham radio interest escalated more. Later on, I soon got my license and was finally a ham!"

3. Did you have an elmer?

"No, I never had an elmer. I pretty much learned on my own. However, I was an elmer for several other hams throughout my ham radio past."

4. What type of equipment do you use?

"It consists of Drake 4C -- Twins, a homemade keyer, and a Class "C" Amplifier 4-400A running 500 watts. My antennas consist of a commercial 50 foot tower, a homebrew 4 element tribander, and tilt over type dipoles for 40 and 80 meters."

5. What areas of ham radio are you most active?

"Currently, I am primarily active on C.W. because of hearing problems. Because of this, I can't understand SSB. I also have been seriously involved in DX chasing. I currently have DXCC at 354 with the Honor Roll at 317. I also am involved in various radio clubs, including the HCRA and the Mount Tom club. I like to build, but most of the things out there are too complicated. I also enjoy the various club meetings and dinners."

Continued on Page 4

*Spotlight on The Crowd is a monthly article by club members and for club members. It is essentially a biography of members of the HCRA. I will be selecting members each month at the regular meetings to interview for this column, using the same questions monthly and they will appear in this same format. If you would like your biography in ZB, please let me know in person, or send me your biography in the mail.
Thanks, editor (NR1L).*

Spotlight on the Crowd (Cont.)

6. What goals do you have in ham radio?

"I would like to keep a few skeds with friends. I would also like to continue to chase DX and participate in some selected contests. I also would like to fill some of my missing DX Honor Roll needs. I have no real ambitious goals, due to my age."

7. What was your biggest thrill in ham radio?

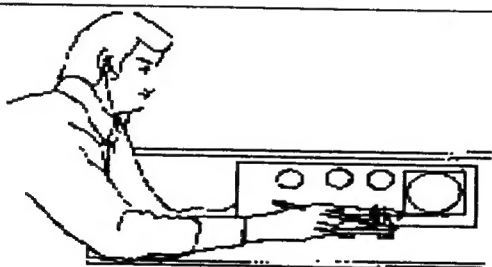
"This would probably be when I receive my 25 W.P.M. code certification. I also have had the highest grade ham license available, and have won my section in several of the ARRL contests in the past."

8. What was your biggest thrill in ham radio?

"I would have to say that when I finally received my DXCC honor roll, this was extremely exciting. I also had an incredible QSO with a station in Pitcairn Island in 1938."

9. What are your interests outside ham radio?

"Besides Ham Radio, I am active in several other hobbies. I am a member of the rotary international, enjoy gardening, and reading of all kinds. I also enjoy following the University of Nebraska football games, and if possible go to a game and the homecomings."



Future Meetings

May- "Antennas, Feedlines, Grounds, SWR, and Other Mythical Creatures." (60 minutes) This 30-minute slide presentation discusses some of the myths about antennas, feedlines, grounds, baluns, and SWR. It answers some of the questions that are repeatedly asked of the ARRL Lab. The question and answer session that follows have been known to get rather lively. Ed Hare, KA1CV will be presenting. Follow the meeting the popular "Stump the Speaker will commence."

June- This June the HCRA will again have the annual election and awards, with the addition of the banquet. This year the HCRA will have a catered banquet at the church. See the writing about tickets on the back page of this issue.

Field Day- This year, the HCRA will have a Field Day. It will take place on June 26th and 27th, 1993. If you would still like to participate, it is not too late. Be sure to attend the May meeting at 7:30 P.M. in order to attend the Field Day organization meeting prior to the presentation at 8:00.

Biker's World On HF

(The following article, reprinted from the November 1992 issue of Badger State Smoke Signals, is a stirring account of a recent "Guinness record", 750-mile, bike-to-bike QSO)

QRP BICYCLE-TO-BICYCLE QSO

by Richard Regent, K9GDF

It is a brisk 46 degrees with drizzle from an overcast sky when Elroy Shelley, WB9GIE, puts on a heavy warm coat and gloves, leaves the warmth and dryness of his apartment in Milwaukee to take a bicycle ride. It is October 10th, 1992, and almost 4 p.m. when he is cycling near Timmerman Field Airport in Wauwatosa, a few miles west of his home.

Attached to his bicycle, WB9GIE has his Argonaut transceiver with 3 watts output, some batteries and a 20-meter Hustler short vertical. At 4 p.m., on schedule and pedaling along, Elroy gives a call on 14.253 MHz SSB, "WC4X, this is WB9GIE". There is no answer.

Another few calls and there is the good sounding signal of Ned Mountain, Extra Class WC4X in Atlanta, Georgia, who is mobile on his Cannondale bicycle.

Ned uses a Mizuho handi-talkie from Japan (\$325) which runs 3 watts with a rewind hamstick vertical antenna. Elroy exclaims, "We got you in here. Sounds great, really exciting, can't believe it, congratulations!" Ned replies, "This is unbelievable!" They exchange 5 by 7 signal reports, weather data and other information.

Ned reports he is wearing a T-shirt and shorts, has 75-degree weather and an overcast sky. Coasting down a hill at 17 MPH, Ned clearly says, "This is something I'll remember for a long time." As the QSO continues Ned says Elroy is stronger, around 5 by 8.

WC4X asks if there is anyone else on frequency who would like to talk to him. I give my call and we QSO briefly. Just before I transmit again, Ned says he will put on his tape recorder logging system so that he has all our data to send a QSL card. K4TWJ, columnist for CQ magazine,

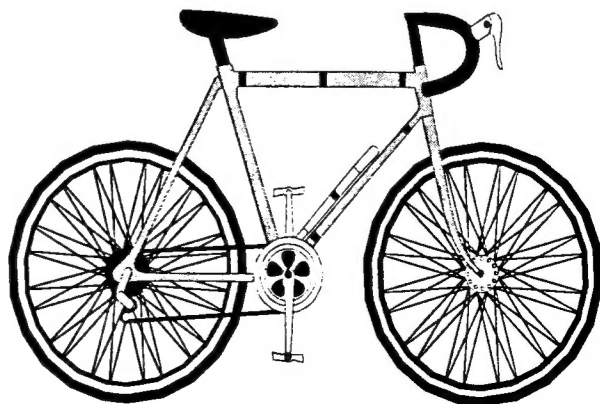
is also on frequency and gives Elroy a call from his location. Elroy says, "I can hear everyone fine except there are some noisy airplanes taking off right here that are deafening at times."

Both bicycle hams are experienced: Ned, who gave a HF biking presentation at Dayton this year, worked England, Peru, New Mexico, and Minnesota on 15 meters biking just the day before. Elroy, who has worked 80 countries, all states and continents from his bike says, "It's easy to work Japan, but to get a rare country I have to battle it out with the big guys."

Then according to schedule, WB9GIE and WC4X change to 21.285 MHz. Ned changes antennas without stopping; meanwhile, Elroy puts his kickstand down to make antenna changes and adjustments. I hear WB9GIE but WC4X is not heard. Finally a band change to 7.258 MHz. However the Pennsylvania QSO Party is in progress here so they decide to skip a 40-meter QSO attempt.

The wind and rain chilled Elroy's hands and head, yet he never used the umbrella he took along. After all, he had just made an exciting QRP QSO on 20 meters with another rider in Georgia--all of 700 miles away, and bicycle-to-bicycle at that.

Elroy grips the cold wet, handlebars, pedals his bike towards home, smiles and says to himself, "Plain as day, incredible!"

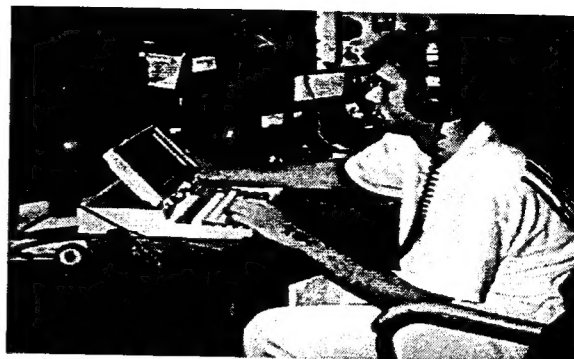


Highlights from the HCRA's Winning January VHF Contest Effort

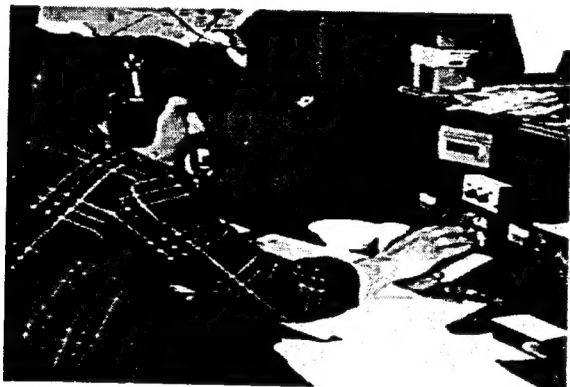
Photos By John Balboni, AC1T



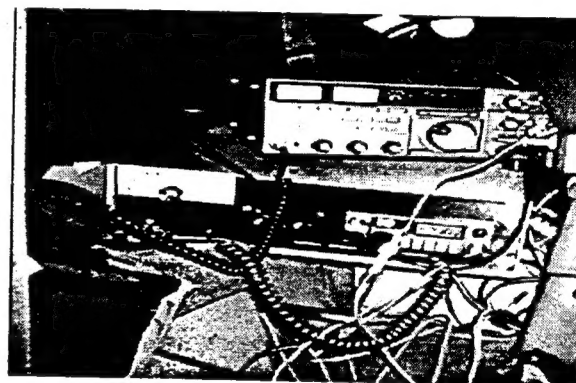
Art, W1KK operates the W1NY station



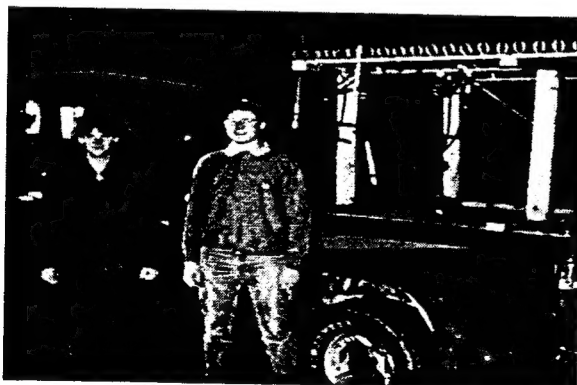
Shawn, NC1B at the keyboard during the VHF contest



Paul, KA1WER tuning in to make another contact for W1NY



VHF/UHF transverter setup designed and used by the KA1ZE rover team



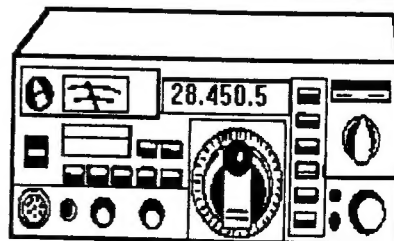
Kevin, NR1L & Scott, KA1QAS rest after scoring 1.2 million points each as a rover team



Frank, NC1I posing for AC1T while making a contact for W1NY

Reminder!!

This is just a little reminder to let you know that the club call, W1NY is available for any members to use for any radio event such as contests and dxing. Just write a little note to the board of directors to ask permission.



Editorial

Coming of age in a Ham Radio Club,
What happens when an operator's
maturity is running **QRP**...

Recently our thoughts have been turned to the ethics involving amateur radio. There are books written that include the do's and don'ts concerning on air operating and the FCC monitors and punishes those that break on air rules. But what happens when such obnoxiousness is carried off the air and in to a Ham Radio Club. The results are ultimately disastrous.

The examples are endless, just turn onto twenty meters during a DXpedition and listen to the howling and burping, and flagellating over the air. DX operators are constantly hassled by such childish antics. Who causes such interference?

Unfortunately such actions degrade the entire hobby. The same problems are encountered off the air. Apparently it is not only the bands that are infested with such **lids**.

I guess that anywhere humans collect there are bound to be squabbles. These verbal abrasions and heated arguments become more apparent in a Ham Radio Club than anywhere else. Back in grade school there were groups that made fun of each other. Such groups are found in Ham Radio Clubs. The competition is many times not in good taste and usually self-destructive.

A Club is only as good as the individuals it comprises. The same is true of a society and a civilization. Any

individual's actions reflect, if not magnify, a club's appearance.

A Ham Radio Club is not the arena for politics and childish games. The success of a club is only going to happen if all of it's members want it. Success is not reached as individuals, but as a Club.

While it is hard to preach the brotherhood and sisterhood among the fraternal order of the HCRA members, it can be said: **GROW UP!**

Put squabbles aside and enjoy each other and the hobby we all share.



**HCRA's Field Day
June 26 + 27th, 1993
Organization Meeting
May 7, 1993 - 7:30 P.M. at
the Church before the
speaker.**

Massachusetts QSO Party Contest

Massachusetts QSO Party

The Massachusetts QSO Party is Sponsored by the Council of Eastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Clubs and the Radio Clubs of Western Massachusetts to promote Amateur Radio within the state of Massachusetts

I. Object:

The object of the Party is to promote on-air competition among all radio amateurs, both within and outside of Massachusetts.

II. Time:

The second full weekend of May (May 8-9), from 1500Z Saturday to 2100Z on Sunday. Stations are only permitted to operate 24 hours within the 30 hour period.

III. Rules of Operation:

1. The use of spotting nets is allowed
2. Operation will be on MF, HF, VHF, and UHF except on 30 meters, 17 meters, and 12 meters, all modes are permitted. Modes consist of digital (CW, RTTY, ASCII, AMTOR, and Packet), video (SSTV and ATV), and phone (SSB, FM, and AM).
3. Land-based repeater contacts are not permitted.
4. Digipeater, node, land based ATV repeater and amateur satellite transponder operation is allowed.
5. Work stations once per band per mode per Massachusetts county.
6. Work the same station on a different band for a new multiplier.
7. Mobile/portable operation is permitted and encouraged.
8. Massachusetts stations may work any stations, non-Massachusetts stations may work only Massachusetts stations.

IV. Categories: (Categories 1 to 4 are for Massachusetts stations only.)

1. SINGLE OPERATOR/SINGLE TRANSMITTER: (SINGLE/SINGLE)

A single operator who performs all transmitting, receiving, and logging functions.

2. MULTI OPERATOR/SINGLE TRANSMITTER: (MULTI/SINGLE)

A station using a single transmitter at a time and obtaining assistance including relief operators, loggers, etc.

3. MULTI OPERATOR/MULTI TRANSMITTERS (MULTI/MULTI)

A station operating multiple transmitters with multiple operators at the same time, when all transmitters are located within a 300 meter diameter circle. All "Bonus Point Club Stations" are encouraged to participate in this category.

Continued on Page 9

Massachusetts QSO Party (cont.)

4. NON-FIXED STATION (MOBILE/PORTABLE)

A station capable of being operated from more than one location. This is to encourage operation from more than one county. The log should indicate which county the contacts were from.

5. NON-MASSACHUSETTS STATIONS:

A station operating from outside the state of Massachusetts.

V. Exchange:

1. Massachusetts Stations

Send signal report and county: Example: "59(9) Middlesex"

Bonus Point Club Station add : "club station" on phone, or /c on non-phone.
Example: "59 Middlesex club station" or "599 Middlesex /c"

2. Non-Massachusetts Stations

Send to Massachusetts Stations Signal Report and State

VI. Frequencies:

CW

1810 KHZ
1850 KHZ
3550 KHZ
7050 KHZ
14050 KHZ
21050 KHZ
28050 KHZ

144.070 MHZ
432.090 MHZ

SSB

3890 KHZ
7290 KHZ
14270 KHZ
21390 KHZ
28390 KHZ

144.220 MHZ (SSB)
146.550 MHZ (FM)
432.150 MHZ (SSB)
446.000 MHZ (FM)

NOVICE:

Up to 30 KHZ from band edge.

VII. Points:

1. Massachusetts Stations

Count one (1) point per phone QSO
Count two (2) points per non-phone QSO
Count fifty (50) points for Bonus point stations regardless of mode.

Continued on Page 10

Massachusetts QSO Party (cont.)

2. Non-Massachusetts Stations

Count one (1) point per phone QSO with any Mass station.

Count two (2) points per non-phone QSO Mass station.

Count fifty (50) points for Mass Bonus point stations regardless of mode.

VIII. MULTIPLIERS:

1. Multipliers for Massachusetts Stations

The total number of Massachusetts counties, states, (excluding Mass) Canadian Province/Territories, and DXCC countries worked on each band.

2. Multipliers for Non-Massachusetts Stations

The total number of Massachusetts counties worked on each band.

IX. Final Score:

Multiply the sum of QSO points by the sum of multipliers worked on each band.

X. Logs:

1. All logs must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the end of the contest.
2. For purposes of clarification, logs must show the mode of operation and the county, state, Province/Territory, or DXCC country. The rest periods should be clearly indicated in logs.
3. Novices and Techs should clearly indicate their license class to be eligible for special awards.
4. Dupe sheets are required for stations submitting more than 100 QSOs.
5. Logs with more than five percent error will only be accepted as control logs.
6. The logs should be sent in printed form.
7. Send logs to: Massachusetts QSO Party
Boston Amateur Radio Club
PO. Box 15585, Kenmore Station
Boston, MA 02215

XI. Awards:

1. An award will be given to the highest scoring station in each of the five categories.
2. An award will be given to the highest scoring single/single scorer in each Massachusetts county (except for the county of the single/single winner).
3. An award will be given to the highest scoring station in each state, Canadian Province/Territory, and DXCC country.
4. An award will be given to the highest scoring Massachusetts Bonus Point Club Station.
5. An award will be given to the highest scoring Novice or Technician class station in each category in the state of Massachusetts.
6. Certificates will be awarded for the second and third place winners in each categories.

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 482

West Springfield, MA 01090-0482

APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION FOR ELECTION TO OFFICE

I, _____,
(Print your name here) (Callsign)

Hereby place my name in nomination for election to the office indicated below:
(Circle one candidate office below)

President

Vice- President

Treasurer

Secretary/Clerk

Director (2 year term)

I certify that I am now, and will maintain my status as, a current regular member, and if elected, will uphold the duties of the office and the standards of the HCRA.

(Sign Here) (Date)

Return this form when completed to the HCRA Secretary/Clerk.

91 Feb 16 - JRS - N1DUY

June Election Info

Well, it is coming close to that time of year again, the HCRA's annual election. If you are interested in running for a position, we strongly recommend it this year! This would be a great opportunity for you to participate and help turn this club into one of the best around. This year we will have several positions open for candidates. President, Vice President, and board positions. Don't be shy, if you are interested please contact Larry, N1EPE, or any other club officer. You can also fill out the application form in the space above, and bring it to the next meeting. Just give it to Jim Sebolt, N1DUY. Or mail it to the club P.O. Box. Keep in mind that you must fill out the form by the May meeting. This year nominations can be taken from the floor. However, the person must be interested and present at the June annual meeting. There will be more information about this in the June Zero Beat. If you are not sure what is involved, you can always ask any of the club officers. Keep in mind that this year's election will be held at the Church. This will allow for more club participation. The board made this decision based on the surveys. The annual meeting will take place shortly after the banquet to allow people who wish not to attend the meal an opportunity to vote and attend the award presentations.

HCRA'S Annual Banquet + Meeting



Buffet Style Banquet!



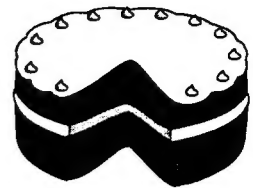
-Award Presentations after dinner
NOTE: you do not have to attend the dinner portion in order to attend the award ceremony.

When: Friday, June 4, 1993 : at 6:00 P.M.

Where: Feeding Hills Congregational Church

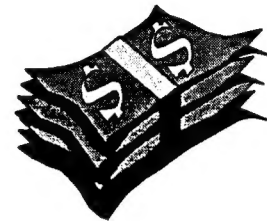
What: Buffet style banquet courtesy of the Polish Club of Feeding Hills. Menu includes pasta, sausage, roast beef, and more! Only \$10 a person!

Why: Socialize with other members of the HCRA, fill up, and receive awards!



Food and Fun!!

Election of Officers



-Annual election of club officers
NOTE: you do not have to attend the dinner portion in order to vote.

Only \$10 a person! get your tickets at the next meeting.

Tickets will be available at the May meeting, or you may send a check in the mail

Editor: Kevin S. Hilinski NR1L

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 482
West Springfield, MA 01090-0482

Forwarding + Address correction requested

First Class Mail



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